

**ABSTRACT**

Oligomer compositions comprising first and second oligomers are provided wherein at least a portion of the first oligomer is capable of hybridizing with at least a portion of the second oligomer, at least a portion of the first oligomer is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a selected target nucleic acid, and at least one of the first or second oligomers has a modified base for binding to a cytosine, uracil, or thymine base in the opposite strand.

Oligonucleotide/protein compositions are also provided comprising an oligomer complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a selected target nucleic acid and at least one protein comprising at least a portion of an RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC), wherein the oligomer has a modified base for binding to a cytosine, uracil, or thymine base in the opposite strand.